A LETTER FROM A MINISTER In the COUNTRY, TO HIS FRIEND In LONDON.

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The following Letter from a Miniſter in the Country, *to his Friend in* London, *having given great Satisfaction to many ſerious Chriſtians who deſir'd a Copy of it, it is now publiſhed for the behoof of a poor Fatherleſs and Motherleſs Girl, which it is hop'd will induce many to promote the Sale of it.*

April, 1767.

Dear Friend,

MAY Light, Life, Peace, Comfort, Joy, Direction and Strength, be miniſtered to you from the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort, by the Holy Ghoſt the Comforter, through Jeſus Chriſt the glorious and glorified Mediator. We received yours of the 5th, the 7th Inſtant, and unitedly return you Thanks for

for your kind Remembrance of us. I am ſorry to hear by yours, that your Friend is dead; I have ſeen her—But, while you mourn and lament her Death, I hope that you are made to rejoice in a Friend and Relation, who, though he was dead, is now alive; and, behold he lives for ever-more, to take Care of all his poor Kins-folk in this Valley of Tears, *Revel.* i. 18. He loves at all Times, and ſticks cloſer than a Brother — The Lord liveth, and bleſſed be our Rock, and forever be exalted the God of our Salvation. Dear Friend, the Death of earthly Comforts, may, for the preſent, ſeem to make againſt us, but, in the End, or eventually will prove good.—All our Croſſes will, in Futurity, appear as ſo many ſparkling Diamonds in our Crown of Glory—"They work for us a far more exceeding and eternal Weight of Glory," 2 *Cor.* iv. 17.—Good old JACOB concluded that the Trials he met with were all againſt him—And, indeed, depraved Reaſon could not view theſe Things in any other Light—But, O amazing! all theſe Things were for him—All Things work together for good to them that love God, &c. *Rom.* viii. 28.—which calls for Patience on our Part, ſeeing we cannot view the End from the Beginning, and may be at a Loſs to know what God is now about to do with reſpect to us—Yet, what we know not now, we ſhall know hereafter, for the Viſion which is for an appointed Time will ſpeak and not lie.——I apprehend that when the Decree has brought forth many of the Lord's now much diſcouraged, depreſſed, and benighted ſtaggering ones, it will break forth in the moſt elated and elevated ſtrains of Wonder

Wonder and Joy, ſaying, What has not the Lord wrought for us! Not only our Faith but our Fears alſo will be eternally ſwallowed up in viſionary Amazement, Wonder, Triumph, and Praiſe. The Path in which our unerring Leader conducts his own People, however thorny, crooked, and rough it may appear to us, is a right one, and leads directly to the bleſſed City of Habitation—And though ſome of our fellow Pilgrims ſeem to be led in a more pleaſant Tract than any in which you and I have hitherto walked in—yet it is not ſafer than that in which we walk, and it only appears to us to be more pleaſant, but, in Fact, may not be ſo to them.—We judge according to Appearances,—but the Lord's Jugdment is righteous—Nay, I am ſure that their Steps are not more pleaſant, except they enjoy more of their God's good Company by the Way,—For as no worldly Proſperity can make a Saint happy, ſo no outward Adverſity can render a Believer miſerable or unhappy, if he enjoys theSmiles of his dear Father's Face.—With the Apoſtle I can ſay that I know what it is to be full, and alſo to be hungry, to ſuffer Need,—to have the Sun of Proſperity to ſhine upon me, and alſo to meet in my Face the cold Blaſts of Adverſity,—And, on the Whole, the Happineſs attending Proſperity is not worthy the Name; and the Miſery connected with Adverſity is more an Appearance, than in Fact; yea vaniſhes into a meer Phantom and airy Nothing, if God be preſent, and his Comforts and Conſolations poſſeſs the Mind.—Worldly Proſperity is a dangerous Precipice.—To be of an humble Spirit with the lowly is much bet-

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ter and ſafer, and often more honourable, and if theſe be the Attendants of our Trials, bleſſed be God, for we are happy.——You ſeem with a Degree of unbelieving Impatience to appropriate the Character I once gave you viz. friendleſs indeed;—But ſtop my Friend, you cannot be ſo, nor none of the Lovers of a dear Jeſus.—Hark! whoſe Voice it is,—It ſounds from above,—it proceeds from his ſacred Lips; I call you not Servants, but Friends, *John* xv. 15.—What will the Lord of Life and Glory be our Friend? ſhall—yea, muſt we, be denominated his Friends?---Let us then adore the Grace, own him for our Friend and glory in the Appellation.---Relationſhip is included in it, and ſeeing that he is an Almighty, an ever loving, infinitely rich and everlaſting Friend, let us ever live upon him, and to him, and caſt all our Burdens and Cares over upon him, and leave them with him, for he careth for us, 1. *Pet.* v. 7. You and I can never want a Friend while Jeſus lives;---Father, Mother, Neighbours, Chriſtian Brethren, and Friends may leave us,--forſake us,--yea, ſtand aloof from our Sores, but IMMANUEL, who is God with us, will take us up;--Unbelief may ſay the contrary, nay it can ſpeak nothing but what is contrary to Truth, and is always calling Truth itſelf a Lie;---But our God ſaith, Ye are my Friends, I will never, never leave thee, nor forſake thee, *Heb.* xiii. 5.---I will not turn away from thee to do thee good, *Jeremiah* xxxii. 40.---I have graven thee upon the Palms of my Hands, *Iſaiah*, xlix. 16. Fear not for I am with thee, be not diſmay'd for I am your God, &c. *Iſaiah*, xli. 10.---And bleſſed be his Name

Name, tho' he may bring us into the Furnace, he will bring us through the Fire, and we ſhall loſe nor leave nothing there but our Droſs, ---and the leſs we have of that ſo much the better for us, and the more to the Honour and Glory of God,---He chaſtiſes for our profit, that we may partake more extenſively of his Holineſs.---No Saint ever loſt any Thing by Afflictions, but all have been and ſhall be Gainers thereby. Then let us never deſpiſe the Chaſtening of the Lord.---If we were without Chaſtiſements, of which all are partakers, our Character would be a very ignoble one. ---Baſtards and not Sons, and inſtead of kindneſs, the contrary would be tranſcribed on us.--For whom the Lord loveth he chaſteneth--yea ſcourgeth every Son whom he receiveth, *Heb.* xii. 6.---You complain that you ſeldom taſte of the Fountain of all Happineſs; this ſuppoſes that you once did taſte of it, and at Times do taſte;---and, if you do taſte that the Lord is gracious, in Time you ſhall ere long drink large draughts at the Fountain head anon;—In this Life none get more than a taſte:—If ſo be that you have taſted that the Lord is gracious, O taſte and ſee that God is good, *Pſalm.*xxxiv.8.--And a taſte cauſes, and maintains a longing in our ſouls, and that is an earneſt of our being filled, ſatiated and repleniſhed in God's good time; for the hungry ſhall be filled with good things, while the rich are ſent empty away, *Luke* i. 53.---I heartily deſire that your faith may be encreaſed and that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghoſt;---and, my friend, if you deſire to drink at the Fountain head,

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take care that you ſit not down at the ſtreams, ---and ſeek ſupply and ſatisfaction in Frames, &c.---Come to me and drink ſaith Chriſt to all thirſty ſouls---Yea, *whoſoever will* is made welcome;---May the Lord enable you to live and walk by faith;---may he keep you humble at his footſtool, and bleſs you with a Spirit of wiſdom and revelation in the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus our Lord, giving you the ſpirit of Grace and Supplication, that you may have free Acceſs to the Throne of Grace, and be found amongſt the number of thoſe who worſhip God in the Spirit, rejoicing in Chriſt Jeſus, having no Confidence in the Fleſh, is, dear Friend, the Prayer of your affectionate Friend, Servant, and Brother, in the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

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